

Appl. No. 09/284,862
Amendment dated January 6, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 6, 2003

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A biochemical analyzer for automatically analyzing a specimen, comprising:

- _____ a specimen introducing part for introducing a specimen rack;
- _____ a specimen rack conveying part having an ongoing straight path and an incoming straight path which are substantially straight over their allover lengths, for reciprocally conveying ~~said~~ the specimen rack received introduced from the specimen introducing part, to and from at least two analyzing parts having different functions and having substantially equal widths, for pipetting specimens on the specimen rack and allowing the specimens to react with reagents so as to analyze the specimens, through the ongoing straight path and the incoming straight path;
- _____ a reexamining buffer for temporarily storing the specimen rack for reanalysis;
- and
- _____ a specimen storage part for storing the specimen rack for which the pipetting is completed,
- _____ the analyzing parts having the different functions, [[and]]the reexamining buffer being located between the specimen introducing part and the specimen storage part in line, the specimen introducing part, the analyzing parts having the different functions, the reexamining buffer and the specimen storage part being coupled to one another in rear of them by the ~~specimen rack conveying part~~ outgoing straight path and the incoming straight path, the specimen introducing part, the rack

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conveying part, the analyzing parts and the specimen storage part being independent from each other and being arranged on a floor so that each of them is independently removable, and coupled to one another in rear of them by the ongoing straight path and the incoming straight path, the specimen introducing part, the specimen rack conveying part, the analyzing parts, ~~the reexamining buffer~~ and the specimen storage part being independent from one another and being arranged on a floor so that each of them is independently removable, and the specimen introducing part, the analyzing parts, the reexamining buffer and the specimen storing part having heights measured from the floor, which are substantially equal to one another, and depths which are substantially equal to one another, _____ wherein the specimen rack conveying part conveys the specimen rack introduced by the specimen introducing part to any of the analyzing parts, and the reexamining buffer ~~and the specimen storage part~~, and also conveys the specimen rack to be reexamined from the reexamining buffer to any of the analyzing parts under the control of a control part for controlling conveyance of the specimen rack.

Claims 2-4 (Cancelled):

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A biochemical analyzer as set forth claimed in claim 1, wherein the specimen introducing part, the rack conveying part, the analyzing ~~part~~parts and the specimen storage ~~part~~part have heights which are set in a range of 850 to 950 mm measured from ~~the~~a floor surface on which the biochemical analyzer is installed, and depths which are set in a range of 750 to 800 mm.

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Claim 6 (Currently Amended):

A biochemical analyzer for

automatically analyzing a specimen, comprising:

_____ a specimen introducing part for introducing a specimen rack;

_____ a specimen rack conveying part having an ongoing straight path and an incoming straight path which are substantially straight over their overall lengths, for reciprocally conveying ~~said~~the specimen rack ~~received~~introduced from the specimen introducing part, to and from at least two analyzing parts having different functions through the oncoming straight path and the incoming straight path, ~~said~~the analyzing parts pipetting a specimen on the specimen rack and allowing the specimen to react with a reagent so as to analyze the specimen;

_____ a reexamining buffer for temporarily storing the specimen rack for reanalysis;

_____ a specimen storage part for storing the specimen rack for which the pipetting is completed,

_____ the analyzing parts and the reexamining buffer being arranged between the specimen introducing part and the specimen storage part in line, and being coupled to one another by ~~means of the specimen storage rack conveying part~~the outgoing straight path and the incoming straight path in rear of the analyzing parts and the reexamining buffer, the specimen introducing part, the specimen rack conveying part, the analyzing parts and the specimen storage part being removable, independent from ~~each other~~one another, and the specimen introducing part, the analyzing parts, the reexamining buffer, and the specimen storage part having

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widthwise dimensions which are ~~multiple~~ multiple of the longitudinal ~~lengths~~ length of the specimen rack, including 1, _____ wherein the specimen rack conveying part conveys the specimen rack to any of the analyzing parts, the reexamining buffer and the specimen rack storage ~~[[rack]]part~~, and also conveys the specimen rack to be reexamined from the reexamining buffer to any of the analyzing parts under the control of a control part for controlling conveyance of the specimen rack.

Claims 7-9 (Cancelled):

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A biological analyzer as set forth ~~claimed~~ in claim 1, further comprising function identification parts arranged to indicate the analyzing parts where a specimen is added with a reagent so as to analyze components of the specimen, wherein each of the analyzing function identification parts are have concave shapes projected respectively from the analyzing parts.

Claim 11 (Cancelled):

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A biochemical analyzer as set forth ~~claimed~~ in claim 1, wherein stages are provided on the top surface sides of at least the analyzing parts, at positions where ~~the~~ an operator carries out confirmation, adjustment and replacement during specimen analysis.

Claims 13-14 (Cancelled):

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Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A biochemical analyzer as set forth ~~in~~ claimed in claim 1, wherein said specimen rack conveying means comprises ~~two conveying paths~~ said ongoing straight path and said incoming straight path accommodated in a housing, for conveying the specimen ~~racks~~ rack in different directions.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A biochemical analyzer as set forth ~~in~~ claimed in claim 1, wherein each of the analyzing parts includes a take-in buffer and a specimen rack discharge part through which the specimen ~~racks are~~ rack is introduced ~~thereinto from the conveying means~~ therein and ~~are~~ is discharged therefrom ~~onto the conveying means~~.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A biochemical analyzer as set forth ~~in~~ claimed in claim 12, wherein said specimen introducing part and the specimen storage part have covers laid at the same height as that of the stages provided to the analyzing parts, measured from the floor.